

Message Text

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ACTION TRSE-00

INFO OCT-01 AF-08 EUR-12 IO-13 ISO-00 AGR-05 CEA-01

CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00 EB-07 FRB-03 H-02 INR-07

INT-05 L-03 LAB-04 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 AID-05

CIEP-01 SS-15 STR-04 ITC-01 USIA-06 PRS-01 SP-02

FEAE-00 OMB-01 /113 W
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P 131515Z SEP 76

FM AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 5501

INFO USMISSION GENEVA PRIORITY

USMISSION OECD PARIS PRIORITY

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE PRETORIA 4112

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: GATT, ETRD, IT, SF

SUBJECT: GATT REVIEW OF IMPORT/PRIOR DEPOSIT SCHEMES OF
SOUTH AFRICA AND ITALY

REF: STATE 223115

1. U.S. POSITION REFTEL WAS OUTLINED TO VAN DER WALT AND
KOK OF COMMERCE DEPT. BELIEVE IT HELPED DISPEL IMPRESSION
WE WERE SINGLING OUT SOUTH AFRICA IN PRESSING STRONGLY FOR
BOP COMMITTEE REVIEW OF THEIR IMPORT DEPOSIT SCHEME.

2. SA OFFICIALS LAMENTED THAT SA NOT MEMBER OF G-18 AND
UNINFORMED ON STATE OF ITS WORK OR EXTENT TO WHICH U.S.
POSITION HAD GAINED GENERAL ACCEPTANCE.

3. THEY THEN INFORMED US ON STRICTLY CONFIDENTIAL BASIS AS
FOLLOWS: THE ORIGINAL INSTRUCTIONS TO THE SA REP IN GATT
WERE TO SEEK WORKING GROUP REVIEW, CONSISTENT WITH U.K. IN
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1968 AND MANY OTHER COUNTRIES. A FEW DAYS AGO HOWEVER GATT

SECGEN URGED SA REP NOT TO INSIST ON A SPECIAL WG. GAVE IMPRESSION HE WOULD HAVE DIFFICULTY OF SETTING UP WG BECAUSE OF RELUCTANCE OF COUNTRIES TO BE MEMBERS, ALSO DIFFICULTY IN FINDING A CHAIRMAN, AND WAS UNABLE TO GIVE ASSURANCES THAT A DEBATE IN THE COUNCIL COULD AVOID MATTERS COMING UP RELATED TO ISSUE.

4. AS A RESULT, SA REP'S INSTRUCTIONS HAVE BEEN AMENDED. HE WILL ONLY PROPOSE DISCUSSION IN GATT OF THE DEPOSIT SCHEME, LEAVING IT UP TO COUNCIL TO DECIDE WHETHER IN BOP COMMITTEE OR WG. IF REFERRED TO BOP COMMITTEE, HE IS TO MAKE NOTE OF HIS UNDERSTANDING THAT IN FUTURE ALL SUCH SCHEMES WILL HENCEFORTH BE REVIEWED THERE.

5. SA COMMERCE DEPT OFFICIALS ARE HOPEFUL THAT ONLY IMPORT DEPOSIT SCHEME WILL BE DISCUSSED, SEEING NO JUSTIFICATION FOR OTHER MEASURES COMING UP (I.E. THE INTENSIFIED SA QUOTA RESTRICTIONS IMPOSED IN NOV 1971 AND DISCUSSED IN BOP COMMITTEE TWICE IN FIRST HALF OF 1972). THEY NOTED THAT IN CASE OF NEW ZEALAND, WHICH ALSO HAS SIMILAR RESTRICTIONS IN FORCE, THEY DID NOT COME UP DURING REVIEW OF IMPORT DEPOSIT SCHEME. CAN WE GIVE ASSURANCES U.S. DOES NOT INTEND TO RAISE?

6. BELIEVE WE OBLIGATED TO RESPECT CONFIDENCE WITH WHICH ABOVE INFORMATION PROVIDED BY NOT DIVULGING TO OTHER GATT MEMBERS NEW SA POSITION ON BOP COMMITTEE.
BOWDLER

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